

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

A List for Resolutions during Ramadhan

By Hadhrat Mirza Bashir Ahmad (ra)

In the November 5, 1937 issue of the Daily 'Al-Fazl' newspaper, Hadhrat Mirza Bashir Ahmad, M.A. (ra), son of the Promised Messiah (as), wrote an article in Urdu with the heading, "***The month of Ramadan has a special effect in purifying one's self: Members of the Jama'at should take full advantage of it.***" In his article, he shared an excellent advice on how Jama'at members may remove their personal and moral weaknesses. He said:

*"This year I again wish to exhort others to adopt that which I have been practicing myself during these past years, namely that during the holy month of Ramadhan members of the community should select one of their own personal weaknesses and make a firm **resolution** to God Almighty to get rid of it so that when Ramadhan ends at least one personal weakness has been eliminated. Hadhrat Promised Messiah (as) used to encourage this as well, and by the grace of Allah this is a very beneficial and blessed method for the purification of the soul.*

Since some members do not have the routine habit of self-assessment, and they pay little attention to taking stock of their own inner weaknesses which should be removed, therefore a list of a few common weaknesses that are prevalent in people these days is presented here for the guidance of the membership."

At the end of the article, he then said:

"This is a list of a few common weaknesses, and you should select one or more of them and make a firm resolution in your heart during this holy month of Ramadhan that in the future, whatever happens, you will completely shun and remain free of it and thereafter based on this resolution and with full determination and the grace of Allah you will not allow anything in this world to undermine and overpower your resolve."

[Note: The list of weaknesses, 61 in total, is slightly reordered and regrouped into six categories. After deep reflection, everyone should select from the list for their '**Resolution**' of the month as suggested. Furthermore, the Holy Prophet^{saw} directed us to pass through life as if every day was one of Ramadhan, and he constantly counseled his companions to focus on removing certain personal weaknesses. Thus, this process of self-reformation should take precedence not only in this holy month of Ramadhan but also throughout one's lifetime, always striving to overcome more weaknesses by God's grace, strength and support, in order to advance along the moral and spiritual path. May Allah bless our resolutions and grant us the capacity to fulfill and remain firm on them. Ameen.]

I. Weaknesses pertaining to worship:

1. Being lazy and negligent in offering obligatory *Salat* (the 5 Daily Prayers).
2. Being lazy and negligent in offering *Salat* in congregation.
3. Ceasing and refusing to offer prayers behind an Imam owing to a dispute with him over some matter.
4. Being careless and negligent regarding proper purification (*wudhu*, etc) and other matters associated with *Salat*.
5. Being lazy and negligent in offering *Sunnah* prayers (those performed regularly by the Holy Prophet^{saw} before or after obligatory prayers.)
6. Being lazy and negligent in offering *Tahajjud* (the pre-dawn prayer).
7. Being negligent in keeping the obligatory fast, i.e., abandoning the fast without any credible reason on the basis of weak and frivolous excuses.
8. Being negligent in making up for fasts which were missed for a genuine reason or paying *Fidya* (the monetary expiation mentioned in Ch. 2: 185) in lieu of them.
9. Being negligent in paying *Zakat* despite being liable for it.
10. Being negligent in determining and confirming whether or not one falls within the category of those required to pay *Zakat*.
11. Being lazy and negligent in performing Hajj despite having the ability and means and fulfilling the other prerequisites.

II. Weaknesses pertaining to the Jama'at:

12. Being negligent in paying one's *Jama'at* dues (*chanda*) according to the prescribed rates.
13. Being negligent in paying *Jama'at* dues regularly and on time.
14. Being lazy and unconcerned in making a *Wasiyyat* (a Will that bequeaths at least 1/10th of one's income and property to the *Jama'at* for spending in the cause of Islam) despite having the capacity to do so.
15. Being negligent in paying or making proper arrangements to fulfill one's obligations of *Wasiyyat* in one's lifetime despite knowing that a dispute could arise after one's death.
16. Being lazy and indifferent in committing to the highest level of *Wasiyyat* (more than the 1/10th percentage) despite being able to do so.
17. Being lazy in taking significant part and personal interest in activities of the Local *Jama'at*.
18. Being negligent in giving proper obedience to the Local *Amir* or President.
19. Being lazy and uninterested in visiting the Headquarters (*Markaz*) frequently despite having the ability to do so and thereby deriving benefits and blessings from *Khalifat* and the headquarters. (Trans. Note – our Headquarters currently is in London, where our beloved Khalifa resides, but visits to our original headquarters in Qadian and Rabwah are also recommended and beneficial.)

20. Being lazy in subscribing to Jama'at publications such as '*Al-Fazl*' and other papers and magazines, such as the Review of Religions, Muslim Sunrise, At-Taqwah, etc., despite being able to do so.
21. Being lazy and unconcerned in giving reports about mischief-makers and hypocrites even though one hears their mischievous and hypocritical statements, and even being deferential to them.

III. Weaknesses pertaining to Tabligh and Tarbiyyat:

22. Being lazy and negligent in the duty of preaching, inviting people to Allah.
23. Being negligent in paying full attention to the moral and spiritual training of one's family, friends and neighbors as required.
24. Being negligent in establishing and maintaining the study of the *Holy Qur'an* or the books of the Promised Messiah (as) in one's home.
25. Being negligent in making *Salat* a habit of your children, and in taking them to the *Masjid* (mosque).

IV. Weaknesses pertaining to moral conduct:

26. Not giving a true account or testimony because of ties of kinship, friendship, etc.
27. Telling a lie.
28. Making baseless accusations.
29. Trespasses of the eyes (staring at the opposite sex, looking at indecent images, etc).
30. Mistrust, i.e., presupposing bad intent in every action and behavior of others.
31. Profanity. Using uncivil and indecent language while angry.

V. Weaknesses pertaining to family relations:

32. Being negligent in the service and obedience to one's parents.
33. Marrying in contravention of the teachings of the Promised Messiah (as).
34. Contracting marriage (outside of the community) without permission from the Headquarters.
35. Spending more than one's means on weddings.
36. Being hard and harsh with one's wife and failing to look after her, or in the case of a woman, being rude and disobedient to her husband and negligent in serving him.
37. Having extreme and unjustifiable love of one's children.
38. Performing funeral rites against the teachings of the community.
39. Weeping or wailing improperly on the death of friends or relatives.

VI. Weaknesses pertaining to personal and social conduct:

40. Overstepping the limits of *'pardah'*, the social interaction between unrelated sexes and the behavior and dress code of Islam.
41. Drinking alcoholic beverages or using other intoxicants and drugs.
42. Smoking (whether cigarettes, cigars, pipes, etc).
43. Using tobacco in other unhealthy ways, such as chewing or sniffing it.
44. Wasting food and drink or spending extravagantly on it.
45. Shaving one's beard in contradiction of *Shari'ah* (the Islamic Law) under the influence of the contemporary culture.
46. Misusing one's natural faculties.
47. Misappropriating or mishandling the money of orphans.
48. Being careless and negligent in the upbringing of orphans.
49. Being harsh and stern with servants without cause.
50. Taking a bribe.
51. Giving a bribe.
52. Being persistent in taking loans for insignificant and unnecessary expenditures.
53. Frivolous and excessive spending, i.e., spending more than one's income.
54. Unfair and fraudulent dealings, i.e., delaying the repayment of debts or the return of borrowed property, and postponing the payment or return of property with weak and false excuses.
55. Taking or giving interest. (*"These days there is a lot of misunderstanding and confusion regarding interest, and under false practices and flimsy pretenses, loans and transactions are taking place that in actuality are forms of interest."*)
56. Suing by way of habit, i.e., suing for superficial reasons and adopting the tactic of suing even though there are other better avenues available to arrive at a judgment.
57. Being dishonest and negligent in discharging an assigned duty or task.
58. Unemployment, i.e., despite being fit and able for work, remaining unemployed and wasting one's valuable time by not accepting a job because it is considered beneath one's dignity and status or too low in wages.
59. Idleness and Procrastination, i.e., being slow and sluggish in one's work by not recognizing the value of one's time.
60. Wiling away time in inactivity and idleness despite being able and available to serve voluntarily in the community.
61. Wasting time in vain and useless games such as chess, cards, etc. (This would include excessive and obsessive playing of video, computer, and internet games nowadays.)

NOTE: Special prayers are requested for Syed Sajid Ahmed sahib who originally translated this list into English and published it in the Al-Nahl magazine in 2003. The translation has been revised and portions of the text from the article have been added. Kindly pray for Anees Ahmad sahib for rediscovering this gem in this holy month and passing it along.